

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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P 271848Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 170067

E.O. 11652 N/A

SUBJECT: US FORCES IN KOREA AND TAIWAN; SECDEF ON

"MEET THE PRESS"

1. HERewith PRELIMINARY TRANSCRIPT OF RELEVANT  
PORTIONS OF SECDEF SCHLESINGER INTERVIEW AUG. 26 ON  
NBC-TV'S "MEET THE PRESS", AS RECEIVED FROM NBC.

2. QUOTE: MR. CORDDRY: MR. SECRETARY, I WOULD LIKE  
TO TAKE YOU BACK TO ASIA. IN SPEAKING THE OTHER  
DAY OF THE REASONS FOR PULLING DOWN OUR FORCES IN  
THAILAND, YOU SPOKE OF AN AID FOR BETTER ALLOCATION  
OF OUR MILITARY POWER AND MOST PARTICULARLY MENTIONED  
NATO. IF WE ARE GOING TO DRAW DOWN IN THAILAND,  
WHY DO WE NOT REMOVE THE 40,000-ODD AMERICANS IN  
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SOUTH KOREA AND WHY DO WE KEEP AN ARMY DIVISION THERE?

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THAT?

PURPOSE IS THAT THE U.S.FORCES REMAIN IN KOREA UNTIL --  
AND WE HOPE THIS IS IN THE NEAR FUTURE -- A STABILIZED  
RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA,  
JUST AS IT HAS COME TO EXIST BETWEEN WEST AND EAST  
GERMANY AND HOPEFULLY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.  
THESE TWO STATES HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH EACH  
OTHER. PART OF THE REASON THAT THEY HAVE FELT IMPELLED

TO NEGOTIATE HAS BEEN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES.  
AFTER THERE IS A STABILIZATION OF THE FORCES, THOSE  
FORCES CAN BE DRAWN DOWN STILL FURTHER, BUT I REMIND  
YOU THAT WE HAVE JUST IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, REMOVED  
ONE DIVISION FROM KOREA.

4. MR. CORDDRY: YOU SAID NEAR FUTURE, OR HOW DID  
YOU PUT THAT?

5. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT  
I SHOULD STRESS THAT THAT MEANS A YEAR, 18 MONTHS,  
SOMETHING OF THAT SORT. THE TWO SIDES ARE NEGOTIATING,  
BUT THE NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT ALWAYS PROCEED RAPIDLY.

6. MR. CORDDRY: ALSO IN ASIA, AND IN CONNECTION  
WITH RETURNING TROOPS FROM OVERSEAS, GIVEN THE SHANGHAI  
COMMUNIQUE, THE POSITION THAT TAIWAN IS ESSENTIALLY  
CHINESE AND THAT OUR FORCES THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY  
FOR THE WAR IN INDOCHINA, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE  
OVER, WHEN WILL WE TAKE OUR TROOPS OUT OF TAIWAN?

7. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: I EXPECT THAT THERE WILL  
BE SOME REDUCTION OF OUR FORCES IN TAIWAN WHICH ARE,  
AS YOU INDICATE, SUPPORT FORCES DIRECTED TOWARDS  
SOUTHEAST ASIA, IN THE FALL. RUSH

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